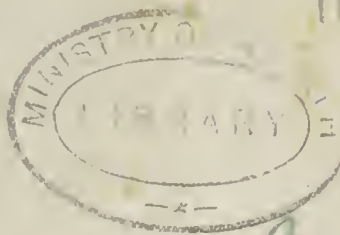


Wells next the Sea. CUD6. E

WELLS, Norfolk, URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER.
YEAR 1925.



- AREA.** The area of the district comprises 2025 acres. The soil is very light, subsoil is chalk.
- POPULATION.** The population, which at the last census was 2649, is now estimated at 2683.
- INHABITED HOUSES.** The Number of inhabited houses - 700; number of families or separate occupiers - about 700.
- RATEABLE VALUE.** The Rateable Value is £7338. A Penny Rate brings in £30.
- OCCUPATIONS.** The chief occupations of the inhabitants are farm labourers, maltsters, shopkeepers and fisherman. There are no industries which have a deleterious action upon the health of those employed in them in this district. Wages in the district, particularly those of the Agricultural labourers, are low, but rents for the most part are small, the majority of the Cottages being old and in the more crowded parts without gardens.
- DEATHS.** The number of deaths registered is 41; the death rate is 15.2. - much higher than it has been for years. When, however, one investigates the ages it is found that of the 26 females excluding the infant of 15 minutes, that 3 were over 90, 10 over 80 and 17 over 70 and that the average age at death of the women was 74, and taking both sexes the average age at death was 68.7. The only death under one year was that of a newly born infant of 15 minutes. Of the 41 deaths registered, 6 were from heart disease; 4 from cancer; 4 from bronchitis and 3 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- BIRTHS.** The birth rate continues very low - 13.4. There were only 35 births in the town - 19 males and 16 females; 3 were illegitimate.
- INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** There was no serious epidemic of any infectious disease during 1925. Influenza was prevalent in late January and early February when the Council Schools were closed. Three fresh cases of Tuberculosis were notified, one pulmonary, (female, age 27;) two non-pulmonary (female, age 25 and male, age 4.) Of the three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, two were male, ages 52 and 63 and one female, age 36. Three cases of pneumonia and one of scarlet fever were notified.
- HOSPITALS.** The only Hospital in the district is the Wells & District Cottage Hospital, 6 beds, 2 cots; supported by voluntary contributions.

HOSPITALS. (contd.,)

Tubercular cases are provided by the County Council with accommodation at Kelling Sanatorium. There are no maternity, children, fever, smallpox or other special hospitals provided in or for the district.

Patients are sent from the district to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital for general treatment and for the treatment of Venereal disease.

AMBULANCE.

There is no Ambulance provided for infectious diseases but for non-infectious and accident cases an Ambulance can be obtained from Fakenham. (10 miles).

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no maternity and child welfare centres in the district. Expectant and nursing Mothers and infants are visited in their own homes by a health visitor provided by the County Council, and the Norfolk Education Committee is responsible for a clinic held at the School. The medical supervision and more especially the dental treatment at the Council School are justifying themselves by the improved health and sounder teeth one sees amongst the children.

NURSING.

No provision for nursing is made by the District Council, but a district nurse is provided by the Wells Town Nursing Association (supported by voluntary contributions). There are no midwives practising in the area.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Water analyses are carried out at the County Lab., in Norwich. One sample only was sent in 1925. The report was not very satisfactory. Nine pathological specimens were sent to the County Bacteriologist for examination and report.

BYE LAWS.

The Wells Urban District Council adopted the Building Bye Laws in 1915.

WATER.

The water supply is plentiful. The 24 new houses on the Mill Lane Estate are supplied by a well at the Gas Works, the water being stored in an elevated tank. This supply is known to be of good quality. Elsewhere in the town the water supply, from wells, is for the most part of very poor quality, liable to surface pollution and extremely hard.

There are no rivers nor streams in the District but pollution of the tidal waters at the Quay with the present arrangement of sewer outlets is inevitable.

SEWERAGE.

Plans have been drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector for covering in the part of the Southern drain in Church Marsh in re-inforced concrete. The work is intended to be carried out by direct labour from the local labour exchange under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor, and the Council is endeavouring to obtain assistance from the Unemployment Grants Committee. There has been very little trouble with the sewers during 1925, but there are still some very old brick drains (particularly in Freeman Street and adjacent to the Quay) which will have to be replaced in the near future.

CLOSETS.

Most privies are on the pail system; a few box closets exist. About 6 of these have been converted to pail during the year. There are a few water closets connected to cesspools with overflow to sewer.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30245990>

(3)

CLOSETS.
(contd.,)

There are now no privy middens in the town. The whole of the privy scavenging is done at night; most are emptied twice a week; the dustbins scavenging is done by day. During the past year 10 moveable sanitary bins have been substituted for wooden receptacles and dustholes.

SANITARY
INSPECTION OF
AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 108 ~~unit~~ inspections during the year in connection with drainage, accumulation of filth, dampness, closets, etc.

Sixteen informal notices have been made by him and the work has been carried out in each instance. No statutory notices have been served. There were 25 cases where work has been carried out without informal or statutory notice.

SCHOOL.

The Council Schools are supplied with water from a pump on school premises. In the Boys' School there are pail closets. The Girls' School is supplied with closets on the latrine system which in the absence of constant water supply and flushing system is, in my opinion, not so satisfactory as the pail method.

HOUSING.

(1) The General Housing Conditions in the town are not good.

(2)(a) There is a considerable shortage of suitable houses of rural working class type.

(b) The Council contemplates the provision of 20 new houses of the parkour type, the inclusive rent to be 7/3d per week. No bathroom is provided; water is supplied with standpipes in the gardens. The Council is taking immediate steps in the matter.

(3) There has been no material change in the population.

OVERCROWDING.-

(1) The North-Western area of the town, namely that between the Glebe Road and Dogger Lane is the most congested area. A special report was made referring to this area in 1919. There is also congestion of houses, although to a less extent, in the East End.

(2) Cause of overcrowding is mainly due to the original indiscriminate erection of houses without any regard for light, air space nor ventilation.

(3) REMEDY.- As stated above the Urban District Council is taking steps to erect 20 new houses suitable for working class tenants.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.-

(a) General standard of housing in the district is low, mostly working class houses of poor type and very many very old.

(b) Many are of flint construction and suffer from a gradual process of decay, are damp and are insufficiently lighted and ventilated.

Many are too crowded together, the privy accommodation and the gullies are too near the dwellings owing to lack of space. Pantries with no ventilation nor light, rotten woodwork, bad plaster are also frequent defects.

(c) In some cases these defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners, in others, occasionally, to tenant neglect but by far the majority are due to wear and tear of old age.

HOUSING
STATISTICS.

Number of New Houses erected during the year = 4.
With State assistance under the Housing Acts -

(1) By local Authority = 0.

(2) By other bodies or persons = 3.

(3).

ini

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

1919

1920

1921

1922

1923

1924

1925

1926

1927

1928

1929

1930

1931

1932

1933

1934

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939

1940

1941

1942

1943

1944

1945

1946

1947

1948

1949

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

HOUSING
STATISTICS.
(contd.,)

Unfit dwellinghouses Inspection.-

- (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for Housing defects = 35.
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or the Housing Regulations = Nil.

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation = 1.

Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation = 17.

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers = 16.

Action under Statutory Powers.

- (a) Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act 1925 = nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied = 4.
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -
(a) By owners = 4.
(b) By local Authority in default of owners = 0.
(c) Proceedings under Section 11,14,15 of the Housing Act 1925 = Nil.

FOOD AND

MILK SUPPLY. There is a good milk supply in the town. There are six registered Cowsheds and Dairies. All have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found satisfactory. The bacteriological examination of samples of milk and detection of tuberculosis in milk or cattle is undertaken by the County Inspector. No specially graded milk is sold as such in the town.

MEAT.

There are three registered slaughterhouses which have been frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and found clean and wellkept. There are no public slaughter houses. No meat had to be condemned during the year.

FISH.

Five stone of fish (herring and mackerel) was surrendered voluntarily and was condemned and a certificate issued.

GORDON CALTHROP,
M.O.H.

11:00 AM 1007 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W

1007 1116W 1116W 1116W